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A WARM HOUSE IN WINTER.

WARMTH in winter is a great matter, and we all wish to know how the necessary amount required for health and comfort can be obtained, at a minimum of expense. I do not purpose here to enter into elaborate details of how you can warm your house by means of hot-air pipes, etc., but am going only to deal of ordinary stoves and open fireplaces.

Remember, first of all, that the temperature of your rooms should be suited to the use to which you put them. If a room is only used as a sitting-room or for sedentary occupations, then 60° to 63° is the right temperature. How are you to know if your rooms are right in this respect? Well, for a few pence you can purchase a thermometer, which, by the way, should find a place in every household. Hang it up somewhere about the middle of the room, not near the fire where warmth may affect it, nor close to a door or window where cold can influence it. A room that is to be used for study should never be warmed with hot-air, an open fireplace is the best.

If manual labor is to go on in a room, then 60° is quite warm enough; and if the work is very hard, then even less is sufficient.

TEMPERATURE OF BED-ROOMS.—Sixty degrees is warm enough, unless there is illness and the sufferer remains in his bed or room. In cases of bronchitis, etc., always ask the doctor what temperature the room should be kept at night and day.

Children and old people require more warmth than others. Some people are very much afraid of spending a little extra money on coals and time in the needful work entailed by a fire. If they can afford it at all, they might bear in mind that proper warmth will keep people in health, and that is in itself a clear economy. Properly warmed rooms and a bit of fire for granny in her room when she goes to bed will be a saving in the long run. Stoves give off a great deal of hot dry air, and unless you are very careful to keep the air of the room moistened they become very oppressive.

OPEN COAL FIRES are the best way for heating our rooms, and most suited to dark winter days. They do not warm the entire room equally; and this is an advantage, as it enables the inmates to select the cooler or hotter parts of it to sit in according to their inclination. Only the grate must be well placed. A medical writer says:—

"The ordinary system of warming by open fireplaces is very wasteful, the greater part of the heat going up the chimneys. A

good firegrate ought either to project well into the room, or to be so constructed that the greater part of the heat shall be reflected into the room. The Galton grate is an example of the former plan, and the plan of Count Rumford the basis of the latter. A fireplace built of fire-clay at the back and sides, with iron bars in front, gives out a good heat, if its shape is a good one. To ensure this, the back part of the fireplace should be one-third the width of the front; and do not let the depth exceed the width of the back. This shape ensures that all the heat will be reflected into the room, and not to the opposite side of the grate, and so up the chimney."



"FAIRY LAND," WALL-PAPER DESIGN. BY C. F. A. VOYSEY.

(See Article, Page 149)

VENTILATION.—We must not omit to say that an open fire is one of the best means of ventilation. Sir Douglas Galton says:—"To ensure comfort, it is essential to combine warmth in the walls and floors, with cool air to breathe, as, for instance, air at a temperature of 54° to 64°. Radiant heat is therefore within limits, the pleasantest kind of heat and the largest proportion of heat from an open fire is due to radiation. No doubt there are other means of obtaining

radiant heat to warm our rooms, such as gas fires, but the gas fire does not produce the same heat in the chimney as a coal fire, and therefore its effect as a ventilating agent is less . . . A room 20 feet square, and 12 feet high, contains 4800 cubic feet of space. In such a room, with a good fire, the air would be removed four or five times an hour with a moderate draught in the chimney, and six or eight times with a blazing fire."

A warm house depends upon other things than fire and stoves. Paraffin stoves, by the way, are very nice for warming a room, and can be had now at moderate rates.

PREVENTION OF DRAUGHTS.—To keep a house warm take care the windows and doors shut well. In many houses they do not, and in winter a cold draught comes in, which is anything but pleasant. This can be guarded against by sandbags, which can be lifted on and off, and by nailing some of the tubing down, which can so easily be obtained at ironmongers'. This in no way prevents the opening and shutting of windows, for, of course, the latter should be thrown open, and the rooms to which they belong thoroughly aired every day. Folding screens are very useful for shutting off draughts, and one advantage of them is that they can so easily be moved from one room to another. You can often get a screen cheap at a store, because the paper on it is torn. This can be covered with some cheap sateen or leather paper, and be turned into a very useful article.

In conclusion, remember that though in winter and at chilly seasons a certain amount of artificial heat is needed to keep your house warm, and yourself in a healthy condition, that over-heating is as bad, if not worse, than cold.

A CUT glass bowl, in which there is a bunch of mignonette, is considered the latest of delicate table decorations. To enhance its beauty, it is placed in a centre cloth of white linen, elaborately embroidered in white silk, with dull green leaves.

LITERARY NOTE.

THE MONTH, a new magazine published by The Critic Co., New York City, is an illustrated monthly devoted to literature, art and life. It is edited by the Gilders, whose editorial work on *The Critic* is so well known, and is particularly handsome and well gotten up; the typographical work is all that could be looked for in any magazine and is a credit to their enterprise and push. Their contributors include many brilliant *littérateurs*.